

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *If I am on a two-lane road and see a police car on the shoulder and a car traveling in the opposite direction, what am I supposed to do?*

A: If it is not safe for you to move over into the adjacent lane, then you must slow down and pass with caution, giving the emergency vehicle as much room as possible.

Q: *Do I have to move over for a wrecker?*

A: Yes. Under a change effective June 2, 2004, road service vehicles, including wreckers, are considered to be emergency vehicles for the purpose of this law only.

Q: *What vehicles are considered to be emergency vehicles under this law?*

A: Police, fire, rescue, ambulance, and road service vehicles. Road service vehicles include wreckers and courtesy vehicles operated by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Q: *If I see an emergency vehicle on the side of the road with its emergency lights off, do I have to move over?*

A: No. You do not have to move over if the emergency vehicle does not have its emergency lights activated. However, you should always pass with caution, giving the emergency vehicle as much room as possible.

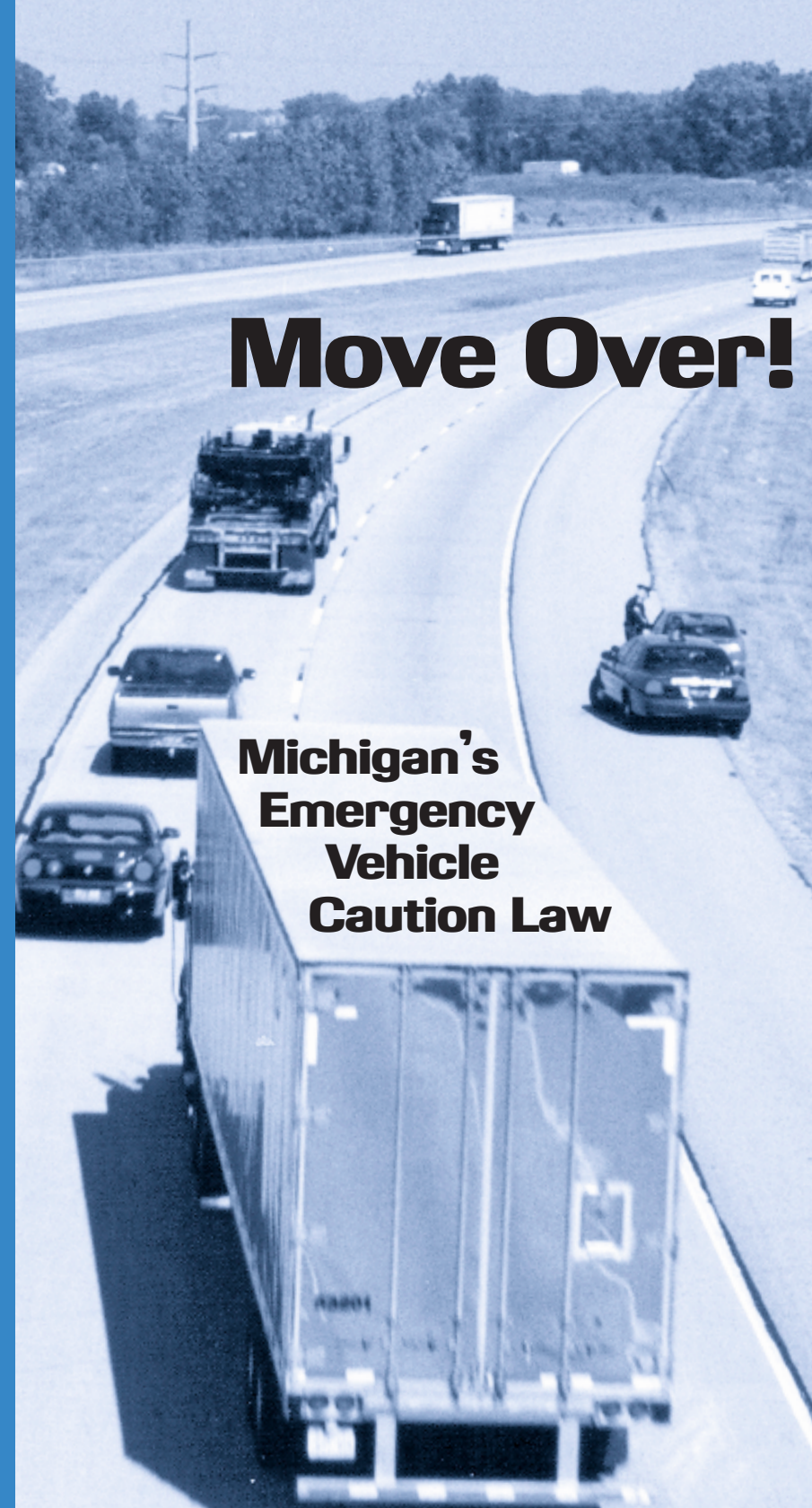


Office of Highway Safety Planning

4000 Collins Road
P. O. Box 30633
Lansing, MI 48909-8133

www.michigan.gov/ohsp

Not printed with state funds. Printed with funds provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation.



Move Over!

Michigan's Emergency Vehicle Caution Law

Michigan's Emergency Vehicle Caution Law

Michigan's "Emergency Vehicle Caution Law" (sec. 257.653a) states:

On Roads With Two or More Lanes of Travel in the Same Direction

- The operator of a vehicle traveling on a highway designed with two or more lanes of travel in the same direction shall, upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle

with its emergency lights activated, carefully move into an open lane at least one lane away from the emergency vehicle.

If this is not possible due to traffic, weather, or road conditions, the operator shall slow down and pass with caution, allowing the emergency vehicle as much space as possible.

On Roads With One Lane of Travel for Each Direction

- The operator of a vehicle traveling on a roadway which only has one lane of travel for each direction shall, upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with its emergency lights activated, carefully move over into the open adjacent lane if possible.

If this is not possible due to traffic, weather, or road conditions, the operator shall slow down and pass with caution, allowing the emergency vehicle as much space as possible.

The Penalty

A person found responsible for violating this law is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to enhanced penalties of up to 15 years in prison and/or a \$7,500 fine if the violation causes injury or death to a police officer, firefighter, or other emergency response personnel.



Why the Law is Necessary

All too often police officers and other emergency responders are killed or injured while stopped alongside the roadway during the course of their duties. Motorists should take this new law seriously. It was designed to help protect the safety of the men and women who risk their lives every day to protect the citizens of Michigan.

